

(e) the number of letters received by the Government from the M.Ps. in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The apparatus are replaced by a new one or repaired one depending upon the condition of the instrument and availability in the store. Even the repaired instruments are checked for functional quality and only then these are sent for replacement.

(d) No, Sir. The instruments are purchased as per specifications approved by TEC, duly tested by Quality Assurance Group, Bangalore.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Over Booking of Passengers by Air India

2116. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India off-loaded about 190 passengers in the International flights in the first half of January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any norm or ceiling on over-booking and whether the ceiling has been exceeded;

(d) whether Air India propose to offer alternative schemes to the over-booked passengers well in advance like giving 50% concessions to those who postpone their journeys by a week or so;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps/measures being taken by Air India to avoid such unpleasant situation causing harassment and loss to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Air India off-loaded 433 passengers on their flights ex-India during the period 1st January to 15th January, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. Overbooking profiles are maintained for each route by Air India. However, occasionally the ceiling on over booking is exceeded to accommodate compassionate cases, commercially important cases etc.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no such proposal. However, Air India provides hotel accommodation with meals till alternative arrangements are made to put the passenger on the first available flight.

(f) Air India constantly monitors and changes overbooking profiles on the basis of experienced loads to minimise off-loadings.

[Translation]

Satellite Money Order Service

2117. SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link every State and district in the country with Satellite Money Order Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State Wise; and

(c) the names of the cities in the country which have been linked with Satellite Money Order Service, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply at (a).

(c) The Department has installed VSATs in 73 locations in the country. These 73 locations are given in the statement attached.

Statement

*List of locations where VSATs have been installed
(Status as on 30.11.1996)*

Sl. No.	Circle/State/UT	Town/Cities/District Hq.s
1.	Assam	1. Silchar 2. Tezpur 3. Dibrugarh 4. Guwahati
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Vijayawada 2. Vishakhapatnam 3. Kurnool 4. Hyderabad 5. Tirupati
3.	Bihar	1. Muzaffarpur 2. Patna 3. Darbhanga 4. Gaya 5. Purnia 6. Ranchi
4.	Delhi	1. Delhi (Ashok Vihar HO) 2. New Delhi GPO
5.	Gujarat	1. Rajkot 2. Baroda 3. Surat 4. Ahmedabad